

and technology, we have introduced H.R. 1756, legislation to reauthorize this vital program and have the support of 70 bipartisan and geographically diverse cosponsors.

Since its inception in 2001, the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) has made significant progress in improving the efficiency and reliability of oilheating equipment, thus lowering costs to consumers and reducing the use of oil. NORA is a collaborative program established by the oilheat industry aiming to strengthen the industry by improving education and training for employees, providing information to customers, and developing new products for consumers. From an ecological standpoint, NORA is working on the development of sustainable biofuels as part of heating oil, and improving emissions controlling technology.

NORA is funded by a fee of 2/10th of 0.01 cent per gallon paid for by oilheat distributors only if 85% of the industry agrees that it is wanted. This fee does not affect consumers, but rather is an initiative by members of the industry to improve their product and save customers money.

Since the authorization of NORA the industry has:

Improved residential oilheat efficiency by 30 percent or 120 gallons per home. Based on the U.S. average heating oil price in the 2009/2010 winter season, the volume reduction over this period has reduced oilheat consumer's energy costs by about \$335 per household at a cost of \$7.50 per household heated with oil.

Reduced foreign oil imports by 185,000 barrels per day.

Reduced CO₂ emissions by 30 million tons. The adoption of NORA's best practices resulted in reduced claims and less severity for industry participants. This yielded a significant reduction in the cost of insurance for companies. For a typical company utilizing NORA's best practices, insurance costs per customer will be reduced by 1.0 cent per gallon.

The authorization of NORA merely provides the mechanism for the oilheat industry, should they choose to work cooperatively, develop programs, and ensure that solutions are found systematically and resourcefully. By reauthorizing NORA, we will help ensure the continuation of research that has helped lower consumer costs and improved heating efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues and the staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee for the work they have done on this legislation and urge its consideration and passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF A SAFE PLACE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A Safe Place, its Board of Trustees, its counselors, and its volunteers as the organization celebrates its milestone of twenty-five years of service to the community.

A Safe Place is an organization on Nantucket that helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault as they start over and rebuild their lives. They were founded in 1987 by five members of the Nantucket Wom-

en's Bar Association and, since then, have continued to provide free and confidential services to these survivors. Over the years, the organization's outreach has expanded to also include specialized assistance to children whose lives have been affected by violence in the home.

Today, A Safe Place provides a 24-hour hotline that people can call when they are in immediate need of assistance, and its counselors often will meet with survivors in the local hospital or police station as soon as the need arises. It has even organized a network of "safe houses" on the island through its Safe Home initiative, a program through which volunteers offer emergency accommodation in their own homes to those leaving an abusive situation. The organization provides assistance with relocation as survivors work to rebuild their lives. When a survivor must confront her abuser in court, a counselor from A Safe Place is often right by her side. A Safe Place offers comfort and assistance to hundreds of people each year, and it is considered to be an invaluable service to the Nantucket community by local law enforcement and healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor A Safe Place, its Board of Trustees, its counselors and its volunteers as the organization celebrates twenty-five years of service. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of this organization to the Nantucket community and its significance to those whose lives have been changed by its support.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE OF OHIO IN CARING FOR OLDER AMERICANS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, as we work to re-evaluate our country's health care delivery and payment system, I rise in recognition of the great success my home state of Ohio has had in caring for our senior citizens. Ohio Governor John Kasich realized not only the cost savings but also the quality of care that could be achieved through caring for seniors in their own homes. He dramatically increased the availability of home health services for Ohio's senior populations, and according to the Ohio Department on Aging, the state will save an additional \$300 million per year by 2020 because of that decision.

When seniors are paying their own room and board, sleeping in their own beds, and doing their own laundry and cooking, they end up having more personal investment in their own health care decisions—covering costs that taxpayers would otherwise pay in increased Medicare and Medicaid spending. Giving seniors, and all Americans, more control over their medical choices and health care dollars will help promote high-quality, cost-effective health care.

Last month was Older Americans Month, and this year's theme was Never Too Old To Play. Older Americans were encouraged "to stay engaged, active and involved in their own lives and in their communities." What better way for seniors to do this than to receive

needed care in the comfort of their own homes? I applaud the state of Ohio for the quality and cost-effective care we are offering our senior citizens and encourage the federal government to do the same.

CONGRATULATING USCG CAPTAIN STEVE POULIN ON PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer congratulations to USCG Captain Steve Poulin for his much-deserved promotion on June 25, 2012, to the rank of Rear Admiral. His unwavering dedication to duty, combined with his impeccable service record, is a credit to the United States Coast Guard.

For the people of the Gulf Coast, Captain Poulin has been a good friend and protector of our shores as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Alabama, from 2009 to 2010.

During his command of Sector Mobile, Captain Poulin demonstrated a level of professionalism in keeping with the finest traditions of the Coast Guard. He was not only the leader of one of the largest operations in the Coast Guard but also a visible and respected member of our community.

Prior to assuming the command of Sector Mobile, he served in Mobile during earlier assignments as Deputy Commander, from 2007 to 2009, and as Law Enforcement Officer and Assistant Operations Officer from 1986 to 1989.

On July 9, 2010, Captain Poulin left the command of the USCG station in Mobile to assume sole duties as local incident commander for the Unified Command. In this capacity, Captain Poulin marshaled Coast Guard resources in the federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill which threatened our coastline for much of 2010.

Captain Poulin's extensive service record also includes assignments as Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Group Galveston, Texas, from 1996 to 1999, and Special Adviser for Border and Transportation Security for Vice President Richard Cheney from 2005 to 2007. From 2003 to 2005, he was Coast Guard liaison to the State Department's Office of Oceans Affairs. He also served as Legal Counsel for the Coast Guard's Port Security Director from 2002 to 2003, and Legislative Counsel in the Coast Guard's Office of Congressional Affairs from 1999 to 2001.

A 1984 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Captain Poulin was awarded his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from the Miami School of Law in 1992.

After leaving the Gulf Coast, Captain Poulin assumed the position as the Coast Guard's director of Congressional Affairs in Washington, DC. He currently serves as the Coast Guard's Maritime and International Law Office Chief.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to congratulate Rear Admiral Poulin on his promotion. I also would like to extend my very best wishes to his lovely wife, Sherry, and their two children, Steven and Erin.